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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5410
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8595
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0971
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 6833
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 9180
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2324
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4115
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SIPDIS

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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ZIMBABWE AND NORTH
KOREA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top items on Thursday morning included the announcement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Machimura on Wednesday that more than 1,400 civil servants received cash, beer coupons, and other forms of inducements from taxi drivers when being driven home late at night on taxpayer money and that about 150 of them have been punished for malfeasance.

¶2. "U.S. Cannot Do Anything About Zimbabwe" A Washington-based reporter for the conservative Sankei wrote (6/26): "The Bush administration is openly displaying its irritation with Zimbabwean President Mugabe's plan to go ahead with Friday's presidential run-off. However, the U.S. does not appear to have effective tools beyond relying on a statement by the UN Security Council.... Given its emphasis on democratization and human rights, the Bush administration may find the current situation in Zimbabwe intolerable, as some 60 opposition supporters were recently murdered by Mugabe followers. Still, as there does not appear to be in the offing any additional UN punitive measures or a unilateral response by the U.S., only the tough rhetoric by the U.S. administration stands out."

¶3. "Don't Let DPRK Get Away With Breaking Commitments" In a front-page commentary, the conservative Sankei's Tokyo correspondent Yuasa stated (6/26): "...One should not betray an ally. If North Korea is removed from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, DPRK leader Kim Jong Il will think that speaking with a forked tongue and breaking a commitment is not so bad.... Only the President can make a policy turnaround. Japan

should lobby Congress to apply pressure on President Bush. Prime Minister Fukuda should visit Washington to press him. If these measures fail to bear fruit, why not ask presidential candidates Sen. Obama and Sen. McCain for help? It all depends on how serious the prime minister is about stopping delisting. Otherwise, the U.S.-Japan alliance could be placed at risk."

SCHIEFFER